

# **Molecular Foundry EH&S Policy and Procedure Statement # 1**

## **Use of Eye Protection In Laboratories**

### **Issue:**

With regard to protective eyewear, LBNL policy states:

- The supervisor of an operation is responsible for determining when eye protection is needed and what eye-protection devices are suitable, and is responsible for ensuring that all employees and visitors use them when in active eye-hazard areas.
- Employees must wear at a minimum, laboratory coats, safety glasses with side shields and appropriate footwear while handling or using chemicals.

There is no blanket LBNL or MSD requirement that protective eyewear be worn at all times in chemical labs. Instead, eyewear is required only when chemical hazards are present in the lab or chemicals are being actively handled. This is a reasonable approach in most Division labs where the number of lab users is small and fairly constant. However, it is difficult to reliably manage this approach in Molecular Foundry labs, where the number of users can be large and is constantly changing.

### **Policy**

Eye protection is required at all times in labs designed for handling chemicals (wet labs). In some cases, sections of labs can be designated where eye protection must be worn.

### **Procedures**

- The lead scientist and MSD EH&S Manager will evaluate each lab to determine the applicability of this policy.
- Portions of rooms can be designated for use of protective eyewear with markings on the floor. All individuals inside the marked area must wear eye protection at all times. Individuals in the room but not within the designated area must have protective eyewear in their possession at all times.
- Each room where eye protection is required will be so posted on each door.
- All Foundry staff are responsible for actively enforcing this policy
- Users who repeatedly fail to use the required protective eyewear will not be allowed access to Foundry labs.
- Brief visitors and individuals touring through Foundry labs will wear safety glasses or goggles at all times in all areas of all labs where chemicals are used.
- The MSD EH&S Technician will routinely inspect visitor safety glasses dispenser boxes and restock boxes that become depleted.

Note:

“Molecular Foundry EH&S Policy Statements” are issued to establish EH&S policy that exceeds or elaborates upon existing LBNL EH&S policy. Work in the The Molecular Foundry is performed in accordance with these policy statements as well as all LBNL institutional EH&S requirements, as described in Pub3000 and other documents.

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